



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Front Range District Office
 3028 East Main Street
 Cañon City, Colorado 81212



RIO GRANDE NATURAL AREA COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Rio Grande Water Conservation District Conference Room

January 22, 2015

ATTENDEES

Andrew Archuleta, BLM San Luis Valley Field Manager; Tom Heinlein, BLM Front Range District Manager; Steve Vandiver, Rio Grande Water Conservation District (Chair); Rio de la Vista, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (Vice-Chair); Harold Anderson, Costilla County Rancher and Costilla County Conservation Board Member; Michael Willett, Conejos County Rancher; Craig Cotton, Colorado Division of Water Resources; Mike Blenden, Project Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Rick Basagoitia, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Kyle Sullivan, BLM Public Affairs Specialist; Chris Ivers, Rio Grande Water Conservation District HCP Coordinator; Charlotte Bobicki, Assistant to Senator Bennet; Brenda Felmlee, Assistant to Congressman Tipton; David Montgomery, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council; Molly Pitts, writer/editor; Clay Hudson, Private Property Owner; Wayne Schwab, Trinchera Irrigation; Barbra Maat, Citizen.

STEVE VANDIVER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.

INTRODUCTIONS, REVIEW LAST MEETING, APPROVE MINUTES

Meeting minutes from the Sept, 11 2014 meeting were unavailable at the time of the meeting. Steve Vandiver introduced Molly Pitts, the new writer/editor for the draft management plan. Molly has been working on updating and re-formatting the draft management plan.

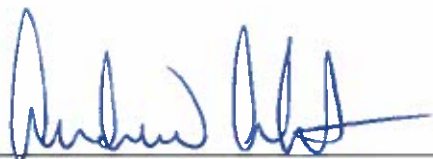
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Barbra Maat, of Crestone, requested that PZP fertility control be considered to manage the feral horses within the Rio Grande Natural Area in the future. She also recommended that the Commission consider protection of a long swath of public lands from the New Mexico border to Baca National Wildlife Refuge in Crestone. She proposed the designation to be long and narrow and incorporate lots of public property managed by various federal agencies because it would be a huge draw for the nation.

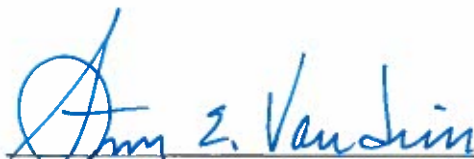
SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Rio Grande Natural Area Commission is scheduled for March 9, 2015 at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Office in Alamosa, Colorado. Future meetings were scheduled for June 17, 2015, Sept 16, 2015 and Dec. 9, 2015.

Public meetings were tentatively scheduled for the evenings of May 12, 13, and 14, 2015 to unveil the draft management plan and obtain public comment.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:00 P.M.

Andrew Archuleta, Designated Federal Officer
Front Range District, Bureau of Land Management



Steve Vandiver, Chairman
Rio Grande Natural Area Commission